Power capacity addition in the Eighth Five Year Plan

659. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the planned power capacity additions in the Eighth Five Year Plan have not materalised; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for slippages are delays in taking up of infrasturtural and enabling works due to paucity of funds, delays in placing orders for generating equipment and in award of contracts for civil works/ erection of equipment, delayed deliveries and non-sequential supplies, contract failures, law and order problems and natural calamities like floods, land slides etc.

Board of directors of the power grid corporation

660. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details and composition of the present Board of Directors of the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited;

(b) whether it is a fact that some members of the Board have been facing charges of irregularities and financial misfeasance;

(c) if so, whether Government have allowed such persons to continue in the Board; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) As on date, the Board of Directors of POWERGRID comprise of three full-time functional Directors and two part-time Directors. The full-time Directors are Shri R.P. Singh, Director (Personnel), Shri A.L. Jaggi, Director (Operations) and Shri R.K. Madan, Director (Projects). The part-time Directors are Shri J. Vasudevan and Shri S.R. Shivrain, Joint Secretaries in the Ministry of Power.

(b) to (d) Shri A.L. Jaggi, one of the Directors in the Board of POWERGRID, has been served with a chargesheet in January, 1997 for initiating major penalty proceddings. The decision on the continuance of the Director on the Board of POWERGRID would depend upon the final outcome of the departmental proceedings.

Export of power from the eastern grid

661. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the eastern region has surplus power at present and the eastern grid is facing high frequency problem;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to export energy from the eastern grid;

(c) if so, the detail thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that authorities are not able to arrive at a mutuallly agreed rate; and

(e) the steps being taken to utlise the surplus power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to export energy from Eastern Region to other regions. The export is already being done to the North-Eastern Region. A specific allocation of 150 MW from unallocated power of NTPC stations in the Eastern Region has been made to APSEB.

(b) and (e) A Power Purchase Agreement has already been signed between NTPC and APSEB where 150 MW power from Eastern Region will flow to APSEB and NTPC will bill directly to APSEB. APSEB is also to pay transmission charges to Powergrid and

GRIDCO. State Governments of the Region has been asked to strengthen their sub-transmission and distribution system.

Supply of power on concessional rates to industries

662. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power supply on concessional rates to 25 industries was withdrawn as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 15th January, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons for restoring the subsidised supply with retrospective effect;

(c) the net loss to State Electricity Boards on this account; and

(d) the steps taken to mitigate the losses of State Electricity Boards affected by restoration of concessional supply to industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In view of the hardship faced by export-oriented units the supply was restored at NTPC tariff plus wheeling charges to 100% Export-oriented Ferro Alloy Units or units with furnaces totally earmarked for export purposes where electricity bill account for 35% for more of their cost of production to enable them to compete in the international market. The arrangement is subject to a six-monthly review.

(c) and (d) As the supply of power is out of unallocated Central share on actual cost basis including wheeling charges there is no loss suffered by State Electricity Boards.

National Action Plan in the Power Sector

663. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a national action plan has been adopted in the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve generation, transmission and distribution of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Common Minimum National Action Plan, *inter-alia,* includes setting up of Central and State Regulatory Commissions, rationalisation of retail tariffs, private sector participations, review of the role of Central Agencies, emphasis on hydro power, improvement of physical parameters etc. In accordance with the Action Plan, Government has initiated steps to bring about improvement in the performance of existing plants, addition of capacity, promotion of private participation in generation, transmission and distribution and facilitating reforms and restructuring of State Electricity Boards.

Power Generation Capacity in the Thermal, Hydel and Atomic Sectors

664. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the power generation capacity in the country in the thermal, hydel and atomic sectors, respectively;

(b) the actual power production in each of these sectors during 199